

The invention claimed is:

1. A wheel cover assembly, comprising:

a cover member having an inner surface, an outer surface, a body portion, and a skirt portion extending inwardly from and circumferentially about the body portion; and

at least one retention clip operably coupled with the cover member and having a leg portion and an engagement portion extending outwardly from the leg portion, wherein the leg portion abuts the inner surface of the skirt portion along a length of the leg portion, and wherein the engagement portion is adapted to abut a lug nut of a wheel assembly, thereby releasably coupling the wheel cover assembly with the wheel assembly.

2. The wheel cover assembly of claim 1, wherein the cover member further includes at least one inner wall extending inwardly from the skirt portion and spaced therefrom, and the at least one retention clip includes a flexibly resilient U-shaped portion that frictionally engages the inner wall, thereby coupling the at least one retention clip with the cover member.

3. The wheel cover assembly of claim 2, wherein the U-shaped portion of the at least one retention clip includes at least one barb located along the length thereof, and wherein the barb engages the inner wall of the cover member, thereby inhibiting uncoupling of the at least one retention clip with the cover member.

4. The wheel cover assembly of claim 3, wherein the engagement portion of the at least one retention clip is flexibly resilient.
5. The wheel cover assembly of claim 4, wherein the engagement portion of the at least one retention clip includes an arcuately-shaped proximal end.
6. The wheel cover assembly of claim 5, wherein the proximal end of the engagement portion includes an outwardly curved lip.
7. The wheel cover assembly of claim 6, wherein the U-shaped portion and leg portion of the at least one retention clip cooperate to form an S-shape.
8. The wheel cover assembly of claim 1, wherein the cover member is configured such that each lug nut of the wheel assembly is exposed when cover member is coupled with the wheel assembly.
9. The wheel cover assembly of claim 1, wherein the at least one retention clip includes a plurality of spaced apart retention clips spaced circumferentially about the cover member.
10. A retention clip for a vehicle wheel cover member, comprising:  
a flexibly resilient U-shaped portion adapted to engage a wall of a vehicle wheel cover member;

a leg portion extending from the U-shaped portion and cooperating with the U-shaped portion to form an S-shape, wherein the leg portion is adapted to abut the cover member along a length of the leg portion when the retention clip is operably coupled with the cover member; and

a engagement portion extending from the leg portion, and adapted to engage a vehicle wheel, thereby coupling the cover member with the vehicle wheel.

11. The retention clip of claim 10, wherein the engagement portion is adapted to engage a lug nut of the vehicle wheel.

12. The retention clip of claim 11, wherein the engagement portion is adapted to engage a conical surface of the lug nut that is not seated within a lug well of the vehicle wheel when the vehicle wheel is installed on an associated vehicle.

13. The retention clip of claim 12, wherein the engagement portion is arcuately shaped.

14. The retention clip of claim 13, wherein the engagement portion includes an outwardly curved lip.

15. The retention clip of claim 11, wherein the engagement portion is flexibly resilient.

16. The retention clip of claim 10, wherein the U-shaped portion includes at least one barb along the length thereof, and wherein the barb is adapted to engage a portion of the wheel cover, thereby inhibiting uncoupling of the retention clip from the wheel cover.

17. A wheel cover assembly, comprising:

a cover member having an inner surface, an outer surface, and at least one boss extending inwardly from the inner surface, the cover member configured such that lugs of an associated vehicle wheel assembly remain exposed when the cover member is coupled with the vehicle wheel assembly; and

at least one retention clip having a body portion with at least one aperture extending therethrough and frictionally receiving the at least one boss of the cover member therein, thereby coupling the at least one retention clip to the cover member, at least one leg portion extending from the body portion, and at least one engagement portion extending from the at least one leg portion, wherein the at least one engagement portion extends outwardly beyond the outer surface of the cover member and is adapted to engage the vehicle wheel assembly, thereby coupling the cover member with the vehicle wheel assembly.

18. The wheel cover assembly of claim 17, wherein the at least one aperture of the body portion of the at least one retention clip includes at least one tab member extending inwardly from an outer circumference of the aperture, and wherein the tab member frictionally engages the at least one boss of the cover member.

19. The wheel cover assembly of claim 18, wherein the at least one tab member includes a plurality of tab members spaced circumferentially about the at least one aperture.

20. The wheel cover assembly of claim 18, wherein the at least one leg portion of the at least one retention clip abuts the inner surface of the skirt portion along a length of the at least one leg portion.

21. The wheel cover assembly of claim 17, wherein the at least one engagement portion of the at least one retention clip is flexibly resilient.

22. The wheel cover assembly of claim 21, wherein the at least one engagement portion of the at least one retention clip includes an arcuately-shaped proximal end.

23. The wheel cover assembly of claim 22, wherein the proximal end of the at least one engagement portion includes an outwardly curved lip.

24. The wheel cover assembly of claim 17, wherein at least one boss of the cover member includes a plurality of bosses circumferentially spaced about the cover member, and wherein the at least one retention clip includes a plurality retention clips operably coupled to the plurality of bosses.

25. The wheel cover assembly of claim 17, wherein the at least one aperture has a square-shaped outer periphery, and wherein the at least one aperture includes a pair of tabs extending inwardly from the outer periphery and opposed across the at least one aperture from one another.

26. The wheel cover assembly of claim 17, wherein the at least one boss of the cover member includes a plurality of grouped bosses, and wherein the at least one aperture of the body portion includes a plurality of apertures that frictionally receive the plurality of groups bosses.

27. The wheel cover assembly of claim 17, wherein the at least one leg portion includes a pair of leg portions opposed across the body portion from one another, and adapted to engage different location of the vehicle wheel assembly.

28. The wheel cover assembly of claim 27, wherein the pair of leg portions are adapted to engage two separate lug nuts of the vehicle wheel assembly.

29. The wheel cover assembly of claim 17, wherein the at cover member includes an alignment tab extending inwardly from the inner surface of the cover member, and wherein the at least one leg portion includes a aperture extending therethrough that receives the alignment tab therein.

30. A retention clip for a vehicle wheel cover member, comprising:

a body portion having an aperture extending therethrough and adapted to frictionally receive a boss of a vehicle wheel cover member therein, thereby coupling the retention clip to the cover member;

a leg portion extending from the body portion; and

an engagement portion extending from the leg portion;

wherein the engagement portion is adapted to extending outwardly beyond an outer surface of the cover member and to engage a vehicle wheel assembly, thereby coupling the cover member with the vehicle wheel assembly such that a plurality of lug nuts of the vehicle wheel assembly are exposed when the cover member is coupled with the vehicle wheel assembly.

31. The retention clip of claim 30, wherein the engagement portion is adapted to engage a lug nut of the vehicle wheel assembly.

32. The retention clip of claim 31, wherein the engagement portion is adapted to engage a conical surface of the lug nut that is not seated within a lug well of the vehicle wheel when the vehicle wheel assembly is installed on an associated vehicle.

33. The retention clip of claim 32, wherein the aperture of the body portion includes at least one tab member extending inwardly from an outer circumference of the aperture, and wherein the tab member is adapted to frictionally engage the at least one boss of the cover member.

34. The retention clip of claim 33, wherein the at least one tab member includes a plurality of tab members spaced circumferentially about the aperture.

35. The retention clip of claim 30, wherein the leg portion is adapted to abut an inner surface of a skirt portion of the cover member along a length of the leg portion.

36. The retention clip of claim 30, wherein the engagement portion is arcuately shaped.

37. The retention clip of claim 36, wherein the engagement portion includes an outwardly curved lip.

38. The retention clip of claim 30, wherein the engagement portion is flexibly resilient.

39. The retention clip of claim 30, wherein the at least one aperture has a square-shaped outer periphery, and wherein the at least one aperture includes a pair of tabs extending inwardly from the outer periphery and opposed across the at least one aperture from one another.



40. The retention clip of claim 30, wherein the at least one aperture of the body portion includes a plurality of apertures that are adapted to frictionally receive a plurality of grouped bosses of the wheel cover.

41. The retention clip of claim 30, wherein the at least one leg portion includes a pair of leg portions opposed across the body portion from one another, and adapted to engage different locations of the vehicle wheel assembly.

42. The retention clip of claim 41, wherein the pair of leg portions are adapted to engage two separate lug nuts of the vehicle wheel assembly.

43. The retention clip of claim 30, wherein the at least one leg portion includes a aperture extending therethrough that is adapted to receive an alignment tab extending inwardly from the inner surface of the cover member.